

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bozeman-Waters National Bank
other names/site number Farmers Bank & Trust Company;
129-522-06034

2. Location

street & number 19 West Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Poseyville N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Posey code 129 zip code 47633

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Rachel Hunt for J. M. Pederson 8-24-87
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Sullivanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS: fiber glass

other TERRA COTTA

GLASS

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The former Bozeman-Waters Bank is located on the northeast corner of Main and Locust Streets at a busy intersection in the commercial district of Poseyville. The one-and-one-half story brown brick building features exuberant beige, Sullivanesque terra cotta ornamentation on its south and west sides. The twelve-inch thick walls of brown stippled brick rest on a three foot high stone foundation. There is a one story section at the rear.

The main (south) facade features a central entrance. The original copper doors were replaced with a modern glass and aluminum door and narrow sidelights. The door is enframed by terra cotta: a rectangular panel with a decorative border spans the head of the doorway, and connects with a pilaster at either side. The upper portions of the pilasters are decorated with the stylized foliage and linear patterns commonly associated with Sullivanesque design. Flanking the doorway are single, almost square windows that sit low to the ground, resting on the stone foundation. The wood, double-hung sash are protected by aluminum storm windows.

A rectangular composition in terra cotta and glass dominates the rest of the facade above the door and windows. The rectangle is divided by heavy terra cotta mullions into five vertical panels with a single horizontal panel across the top. In the horizontal panel is a sign that says, "Farmers Bank & Trust Company." It conceals the original Bozeman-Waters National Bank name that is cut into the stone beneath. The five vertical panels each contain a ten-light window of rectangular, marbled, stained glass panes. At the ends of the terra cotta moldings that frame the sign and separate the windows are very large extremely ornate terra cotta ornaments. The six that are located at the bottom of the composition, just above the door and windows, are the largest and most ornate, featuring foliage forms. The upper ornaments are more geometric.

A terra cotta belt course extends around the building's south and west sides six courses above the lower windows, at the same level as the heavy ornaments. The belt course has a geometric border design. At the cornice is another, wider band of terra cotta, with a regular geometric pattern that also continues around the building. It is interrupted only by the upper ornaments, and a single cartouche centered over the main entrance.

The west side of the building is very similar to the front, except that there is no entrance on the main building, and the rectangular terra cotta composition is nine windows wide instead of five. The dates 1884 and 1924 appear on either side of the bank's sign.

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Wrought ironwork originally decorated the lower outside windows. The only other change to the outside has been a one-story addition in 1980 to the rear of the building, adjoining a one-story section that is original.

The original interior featured the banking room in the front 30 feet of the building. The back of the building contained offices and a community room with a Locust Street entrance. This room was suitable for meetings and social gatherings, and featured a very modern ladies' restroom.

The main lobby, or banking room, featured the teller windows on the west side of the building. These windows were very modern for the time and consisted of dark brown mahogany wainscoting and Napolean gray marble shelves. A four-foot-high, gray marble wainscot ran along the east wall, and on part of the north wall from the east wall to the opening in the back of the building, and along the south wall from the east wall to the front entrance. The marble wainscot still exists.

The balance of the walls were painted up to the 22 foot high ceiling, and decorated with art paints with shaded tan and brown borders. The tinted glass windows along the south and west walls completed the interior wall appearance.

The ceiling featured large, chandelier-type light fixtures and the floor was gray flint tile. A false balcony across the front of the lobby featured intricate woodwork along the balustrade. A stairway off the lobby led to the mezzanine floor. Here, a balcony stretched across the building and faced into the lobby. This balcony also had intricate woodwork and a large clock in the center. The mezzanine floor housed a room for the Board of Directors and another room which was used as an office or for storage.

In 1957 the interior was extensively remodeled to make the building more functional and modern. The original teller windows were replaced with a modern teller line with five stations. This new line was placed on the east side of the building. A dropped tile ceiling was installed, which conceals the original 22 foot ceiling, the balcony along the north side of the lobby and the stained glass upper windows. The false balcony across the front was removed.

The main banking area now contains three offices. The vault in the lobby is the original vault installed when the building was built in 1924. Just off the lobby to the back is the large room which was originally the community room. It is now used for a meeting room, file storage and another office. From this area, the original stair leads to what was the mezzanine floor. A large air-conditioning unit was placed in what was the Board Room. The other room upstairs is now used for storage. Off the large meeting room toward the back of the building is the 1980 addition. This area contains a vault for storing papers and records, an employee kitchen, and men's and ladies' restrooms.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1924

Significant Dates

1924

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thole, Edward J., Sr., of Shopbell,
Fowler and Thole

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Bozeman-Waters National Bank Building is architecturally significant as one of Indiana's finest examples of Sullivanesque design and ornamentation. Although located in a very small community in the southwest tip of the state, the building is widely known and is often visited and photographed.

The building has often been mistaken for one of Louis Sullivan's small midwestern banks, although it was designed by Evansville, Indiana architect Edward J. Thole, Sr. It is clear that Thole took his inspiration from Sullivan, however, because the composition of the west wall of the Bozeman-Waters Bank has been borrowed directly from Sullivan's People's Federal Savings & Loan Association Bank (1919-18) located in Sidney, Ohio (National Register, 1972). The Poseyville bank's combination of a horizontal panel over nine vertical lights, with terra cotta mullions terminating in large ornaments, was also used on the side wall of the Sidney bank where "The huge, beautifully modeled terra cotta brooches . . . pin the lacelike window trim to the brick fabric . . ."

A close examination of the individual terra cotta pieces reveals that some of the pieces on the Poseyville bank are closely patterned after those on the Sidney bank, although the differences are sufficient to show that they could not have been cast from the same molds. These include the pieces at the ends of the horizontal mullions, those at the lower ends of the vertical mullions, the larger pieces at the lower corners of the window composition, the belt course above the ground floor, and the flat patterned band at the cornice. The same ornamentation is repeated on the main facade on the Poseyville bank, whereas on the Sidney bank only the belt course and cornice are continued on the front.

There are similarities between the two banks in overall massing and composition, as well. Both are simple boxes, with their main entrances on the shorter side, and both feature a one story annex on the rear, with the belt course being the unifying element that ties the annex to the main building. Both have a stone foundation (marble in Sidney, limestone in Poseyville), with almost-square windows resting on the foundation. Differences are that the scale of the Poseyville bank is much smaller and proportions, especially of the windows, are different; the side

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windows above the foundation are more numerous on the Poseyville bank; and the openings in Poseyville's annex are more irregular than the repetitiously placed windows on the Sidney annex.

The American Terra Cotta Index lists an order for the terra cotta for the Poseyville Bank, with the Indianapolis Terra Cotta Company, Order #2415.² There is no indication of whether the order was for a "stock piece," as there is for some of the orders in the index. There are drawings of the Poseyville terra cotta work on file at the Northwest Archives at the University of Minnesota, but there are no identifying initials on the drawings. Thus the available information is inconclusive in determining the actual origins of the mold designs used on the Poseyville building. However, it is interesting to note that in 1924, when the Poseyville order was placed, the Indianapolis Terra Cotta Company was a subsidiary of the American Terra Cotta Company in Chicago, and had been since 1916.³ It is known that the terra cotta for the Sidney bank came from the American Terra Cotta Company.

Even though the exact relationship between the Bozeman-Waters National Bank and the People's Federal Savings and Loan Association has not been discovered, the similarities are such that the Bozeman-Waters Bank's importance to Indiana as an example of Sullivanesque design is undisputed. Only one other building in Indiana can be cited as a comparable example, and that is a small bank in West Lafayette that was designed by Sullivan himself, the only known Sullivan building in the state.

Edward Joseph Thole, Sr. (1890-1956) worked for the Shopbell, Fowler and Thole firm of Evansville, Indiana. Thole began his architectural career c. 1909, working as a draftsman in Evansville until 1912 or 1913, when he became associated with the Clifford Shopbell & Company architectural firm there. The name of the firm was changed to Shopbell, Fowler & Thole at about the time the Bozeman-Waters Bank was designed. Thole continued his association with the firm until 1926, when he formed a partnership with Ralph Legeman. After 1932 he continued on his own. His last listing as "architect" in the city directory was in 1950.⁴ Thole's designs included the Reitz Memorial Catholic High School (1923) in Evansville, a Collegiate Gothic style building; and St. Benedict's Church (1927), in the Romanesque Revival style.⁵ More closely related to the Bozeman-Waters Bank building is the Fellwock Automobile Company building in Evansville (1923, listed in the National Register), which also features Sullivanesque ornamentation, though much more subdued.

Virgil P. Bozeman, along with George J. Waters, began a private banking company in Poseyville on October 29, 1884, called Virgil P. Bozeman & Company. The name was changed to Bozeman & Waters, Bankers, on January 1, 1899. In April, 1906, the company became the Bozeman-Waters National Bank. Bozeman died in 1911. In 1923, plans were announced to build a new bank building and on October 29, 1924, the new building was opened during a 40th anniversary celebration.

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In 1931, the bank fell victim to the Depression and had to close its doors. (It went into receivership for the next several years and eventually paid out 99¢ on the dollar.) The First National Bank of Poseyville had closed a year or two earlier, and the closing of the Bozeman-Waters left the town without a bank. The nearest bank was the Farmers National Bank in Wadesville, Indiana, which is where most Poseyville residents decided to conduct their business. Shortly after its closing, the Bozeman-Waters Bank Building was purchased by eight Poseyville men, who paid \$500 each for a total of \$4,000. The building was said to have cost \$50,000 to build in 1924. A need for more convenient banking in Poseyville led the Farmers National Bank to reorganize in 1940 as a state chartered bank, called Farmers Bank & Trust Company. This reorganization was necessary in order to open a branch in Poseyville, because National banks could not branch then. Farmers Bank purchased the building from the eight men who owned it and opened a branch in October, 1940.

¹Thomas E. Tallmadge, "The Peoples Savings and Loan Association Building of Sidney, Ohio," The American Architect, Wednesday, October 23, 1918, page 479.

²Statler Gilfillen, American Terra Cotta Index (Palos Park, Illinois: Prairie School Press, 1974).

³Telephone interview with Al Lathrop, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, September 29, 1986 and October 2, 1986.

⁴Memo from Joan C. Marchand, Evansville Preservation Officer, August 30, 1986.

⁵"Ed Thole, Sr., Dies in West; Designed Churches, Schools Here." Evansville Courier, January 23, 1956.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. The Evansville Courier, October 27, 1924.
2. The Evansville Courier, January 23, 1956.
3. The Evansville Sunday Journal, April 22, 1923.
4. Gilfillen, Statler. American Terra Cotta Index. Palos Park, Illinois: Prairie School Press, 1974.
5. Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, Posey County Interim Report, February, 1985.
6. Marchand, Joan C. Memo on Edward Thole, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, August 30, 1986.
7. Millett, Larry. The Curve of the Arch: The Story of Louis Sullivan's Owatonna Bank. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1985.
8. Morrison, Hugh. Louis Sullivan: Prophet of Modern Architecture. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1935, pp. 382-3.
9. The Mt. Vernon Western Star, October 30, 1924.
10. The New Harmony Times, October 31, 1924.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 1,6 4,3,1 3,5,0 4,2 2,4 7,5,0
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the north-east corner of the intersection of Main and Locust Streets in Poseyville, Indiana. The building front faces Main Street (south) and is 29' wide. The west side of the building runs parallel to Locust Street and is 96'2" long. The east wall is adjacent to adjoining buildings. The rear wall is also 29' wide, as the building is rectangular.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the building, excluding sidewalks

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David K. Ogg/Marketing Officer
 organization Farmers Bank & Trust Company date August 1, 1986
 street & number 19 West Main Street telephone 812-874-2239
 city or town Poseyville state Indiana zip code 47633

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11. The Poseyville News, October 24, 1924.
12. Tallmadge, Thomas E. "The Peoples Savings and Loan Association Building of Sidney, Ohio," The American Architect, Vol.: CXIV, No. 2235, October 23, 1918, pp. 477-482.

